

Application No. 09/996,438  
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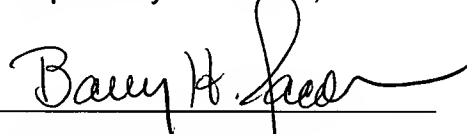
Remarks

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Keown et al, WO 95/11034. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nichols et al, WO97/37689. Claims 1-19 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of equivalents. Applicants traverse each of these rejections.

Applicants have amended claim 1 and canceled claims 5, 9 and 11. Applicants submit that neither Keown nor Nichols disclose or teach the claimed embodiments of Applicants' invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that withdrawal of the rejections is appropriate and that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that they will submit a terminal disclaimer upon notification of allowance.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning the above, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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